



Patuxent Science Meeting 2004 Poster Abstract

Bird without equal: A web page on Painted Bunting biology and management

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The Painted Bunting, a spectacularly colored songbird, is rapidly disappearing from many of its haunts near wetlands and rivers of coastal Georgia. The bird's population declined >60% from 1966-1995. Education, especially through the internet and combined with management and research, can provide for the bunting's rapid recovery. This web page allows the user to quickly understand the biology and habitat of Painted Buntings. It provides a virtual tour of Georgia's Painted Buntings with >90 photographs and graphs, four links to important bunting information, and a Georgia coastal map that links you to more than 50 photographs of seven sites that describe bunting management and habitat. You'll visit Painted Bunting shrub-scrub feeding and nesting habitats, which are found on coastal barrier islands and near rivers on the coastal mainland. You'll also cruise through open canopy forests, young pine plantations, and developed land near wetlands, which provide habitat. Management on public lands may provide a base from which population expansion occurs for this species, but research and management on private lands may provide the key to the Painted Bunting's recovery in the next few decades.